

Sexual Orientation: The LGBTQ+ Debate

Based on the sermon by Dr. Stephen G. Tan

MESSAGE

Watch the sermon. As you watch, use the outline to follow along or take notes on anything that stands out to you.

NOTES

In a world that considers the LGBTQ+ lifestyle as normal and acceptable and where those who believe otherwise are branded as bigots, narrow-minded, and unloving, how should followers of Jesus respond and engage while remaining grounded on God's Word? Here are five principles:

1. **Distinguish between same-sex attraction and acting out on those same-sex sexual desires.**
 - Homosexual *orientation* is the state of being attracted to someone of the same gender. Homosexual *behavior* is the acting out of same-sex attraction and desires or living it out as a lifestyle. It is the behavior that God explicitly condemns (Romans 8:20-23).
2. **It is sin in God's eyes to act out on same-sex sexual attraction.**
 - That God views homosexual behavior as sin is not up for debate. It is clearly stated in the Bible (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Timothy 1:9-10).
 - Note that homosexual behavior is on the same level as other sins listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. One is not worse than the other.

3. **Same-sex attraction is due primarily to environmental conditions, not genetics.**
 - Decades of extensive research has never proven the existence of a "gay gene," but it has shown that one's sexual orientation is heavily influenced by one's environment, which includes home life and cultural stereotypes.
 - The important thing is not how you acquire the attraction, but what you do with it.

4. **You don't have a right to be happy. You have a right to be holy.**
 - Happiness is not a right. If it were the case, then everyone would do anything they wanted even if they were wrong.
 - Happiness and true joy comes with living out what God has ordained.

5. **As Jesus has exemplified, show love and grace but also expect righteous living.**
 - Read John 8:7-12 to see how Jesus demonstrated this.
 - As Christians, we can be welcoming but we don't have to be affirming of one's sinful behavior.

REFLECT and DISCUSS

1. Take a few minutes to talk about the message. What part of the teaching had the most impact on you?
2. Do you believe that a person with a homosexual orientation can change? How?
3. How can you engage in conversation with your child and/or a young person about the biblical perspectives on gender identity and sexual orientation so that he/she will be aware to not fall into temptation or living in sin?
4. In what ways can we as a church reach out to the LGBTQ+ community with love and care?

PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer.